

**BERNARDS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
BASKING RIDGE, NEW JERSEY
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OCTOBER 8, 2012
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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OCTOBER 8, 2012
REGULAR MINUTES 7:00 P.M.
WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President McGowan.

I. Salute to Flag

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch, Ms. McGowan, Ms. McKeon,
Ms. Shah, Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Mr. Markarian, Mr. Siet,
Mr. McLaughlin

ABSENT: Ms. Kusel

III. Regular Session – Call to Order – 7:00 p.m. – William Annin Middle School Auditorium

IV. Statement of Public Notice

This was a regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Bernards Township. Notice of the time and place of this meeting was provided and copies of that resolution were forwarded to the official newspapers as designated by the Board of Education and to the Township Clerk and a copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Board of Education Offices in accordance with P.L. 1975 Chapter 231A.

We very much welcome input from the public. There are two times during regular meetings that the public is invited to speak. One time is early in the meeting before the Board votes, and you may speak about any item that is listed on tonight's agenda. Towards the end of the meeting, there is another public forum to address any topic whatsoever.

When you approach the microphone, please state your name and address. We do not have a specific time limit, but we ask that you keep your comments brief. Please understand that our public forums are not structured as question and answer sessions, but rather they are offered as opportunities to share your thoughts with the Board. In instances where the Board feels that there is a misunderstanding or inaccuracy, a member of the Board or Administration will address it in the Board Response portion of the agenda.

There are times when a member of the public makes a comment or asks a question about an employee. New Jersey statute does not permit us to discuss personnel issues in public. Also as a matter of law, a Board of Education may only vote for or against the hiring of an employee upon the recommendation of the superintendent. If the superintendent does not recommend a person, that person's name is not listed on the agenda and there is no vote on that action. If it is necessary for the Board to go into executive session at the end of the meeting, we will provide an estimated length of time for the session and whether any action is anticipated to be taken upon returning to public session.

V. Board Presentation

- 1) Fall Testing Report
Assistant Superintendent Sean Siet & Supervisor of Guidance Jillian Shadis

Mr. Siet and Ms. Shadis presented an overview of the Fall Testing Report by highlighting:

- Guidelines for Student Assessment – all students will be assessed
- State Testing Parameters
- Student Assessment by Subgroups
- NJASK
 - Information was separated into Language Arts and Math with sample expository prompts, writing tasks, math, and science problems
 - Comparisons of 2012 NJASK results between Bernards Township, DFG J Factor groups, and New Jersey mean scores as well as between the district's four elementary schools
 - A five-year comparison (all grades) of NJASK Language Arts and Math
 - 2012 Cluster mean scores between elementary schools in both Language Arts and Math
 - 2012 NJASK results in grades 6-8 compared with DFG J Factor groups
- HSPA
 - Information was separated into Language Arts and Math with sample expository prompts, writing tasks, math and science problems
 - Comparisons of 2012 HSPA data, DFG J Factor groups, and New Jersey mean scores
 - A five-year comparison of HSPA mean scores in Language Arts and Math
- PARCC to replace HSPA (applies to Class of 2016)
- Overview of New Jersey Biology Competency Test
- Annual Measurable Objectives to replace Annual Yearly Progress
- An overview of NJASK AYP

- Areas to address, district initiatives to improve instruction, and the future of testing

click [here](#) to view report

VI. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Markarian updated the Board on both his personal and district goals.

- Increase Achievement
Mr. Markarian explained a "Wrap Around" program he would like to see instituted in the district. Students requiring reinforcement in preparation for state achievement testing would attend a two day a week program, one hour each session. The program would run for a total of 20 weeks. Parents of children who would benefit from this program will be surveyed to determine interest. The results will be brought to the Board along with the program expenses.
- Board and Community Communication – update of district website; televising of Board meeting is scheduled to begin with the January 7 meeting
- Strategic Plan – continuing to gather additional information including references from Montgomery and Millburn
- Board Goals – continuing Strategic Plan process; administrative training on comprehensive staff evaluation system was completed, and the Danielson observation system has been implemented.

VII. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

VIII. Committee Reports

FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- 1) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve a list of [disbursements](#) dated October 8, 2012 consisting of warrants in the amount of \$7,306,909.58.

2) The Bernards Township Board of Education does hereby approve professional development expenses in accordance with P.L. 2007 An Act Concerning School District Accountability and annual Board resolution for the 2012-13 school year:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Name of Conference:</u>	<u>Cost:</u>	<u>Date(s):</u>
R. McLaughlin	Service Organization Reporting Frameworks/ NJSCPA	\$269	10/24/2012

On motion by Mr. Koch, seconded by Mr. Byrne, Items #1 & 2 were approved by the following roll call vote:

- “Ayes” - Mr. Byrne, Ms. Cwerner, Mr. Koch, Ms. McKeon, Ms. Shah,
Ms. Sherwyn, Ms. Wooldridge, Ms. McGowan
- “Noes” - None
- “Abstain” - None

Board President Susan McGowan polled the Board regarding its thoughts on consolidation of the Board’s Finance and Ad Hoc Facilities Committees.

By a 8-0 show of hands it was agreed going forward these committees would be joint.

PERSONNEL

Chairperson Susan McGowan stated the majority of the Board will be attending the upcoming New Jersey School Boards Convention. At this meeting they will have the opportunity to take advantage of training workshops on negotiations.

AD HOC FACILITIES

Board President Susan McGowan stated the Board and Township Committee are in discussion regarding the possibility of establishing a Joint Task Force to focus on the high school traffic issue. There is an initial meeting on Wednesday, October 10, with Mr. Koch, Mr. Markarian and herself representing the Board of Education.

By an 8-0 show of hands it was agreed the Board of Education would pursue a Joint Task Force with the Township Committee.

Ms. McGowan stated the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, at 4:00 p.m.

CURRICULUM

Chairperson Robin McKeon updated the Board on the September 14 Curriculum Committee meeting. Items reviewed at this meeting included summer curriculum writing (Science, Language Arts, Math, Special Education), the Math Program Evaluation 6-12, and a brief Post-Secondary Testing Data Overview.

POLICY

Chairperson Bev Cwerner stated the committee is scheduled to meet on October 19. The committee will review and compare several district calendars. The committee's focus is the length of the current school year.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Chairperson Audrey Sherwyn reviewed the committee's meeting with the PTO Advisory Board. Items discussed included the revised school lunch program, the procedure and appropriate channels to contact Board committees/members. Ms. Sherwyn stated Board members cannot respond to comments on Facebook and encouraged individuals with issues/questions to contact Board members directly. She stated the voters and absentee ballot forms have been sent to PTOs. Ms. Sherwyn alerted the Board to sensitivity training being held by the Parents of Exception Children stating she attended one of the programs last year and found it to be a very worthwhile experience.

Ms. Sherwyn stated at the last Municipal Alliance meeting students from Ridge High School spoke on their experience attending the Lindsay Meyer Teen Institute training program. She reported on the success of this summer's Movie Night, National Night Out, the upcoming Teen Volunteer Fair (October 10) at the township library, and a summit program being held at William Annin Middle School next week.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Wooldridge stated Somerset County Educational Services Commission will hold its first meeting on October 11.

IX. Public Comments on Other Than Agenda Items

Comments were made regarding inclusion of a religious holiday in the school calendar, the Joint Task Force committee with the Township, and establishing an Advisory Committee on the Ridge High School traffic issue.

X. Board Forum

1) SAT Scores

Board Member Mike Byrne reviewed information compiled on the history of SAT results beginning with 1965-66. He included a comparison in both math and verbal with Ridge High School, national, and mean scores.

XI. Adjournment

On motion by Ms. Shah, seconded by Ms. Sherwyn, and approved by all present, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod McLaughlin
Board Secretary